

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2579
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2007
STORAGE OF CRUDE OIL
Singh Kunwar Rewati Raman

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether Government is aware that China imported 12.4 million barrels of crude for its strategic storage tanks in December, 2006, which was 50% higher than its intake in November, 2006 taking advantage of cheaper oil;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Union Government also considers such courses for building up reserves based on cheap crude prices ;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) & (b): As per the FACTS Global Energy Report Issue of March 2007, 12.4 million barrels of crude were offloaded to the Chinese storage sites of its Strategic Petroleum Reserves (SPRs) at Zhenhai, Zhejiang Province in December, 2006. This was in addition to the 3 and 4 million barrels of injections in November, 2006.

(c) to (e): Yes Sir, In order to enhance the energy security of the country and to safeguard against short term supply disruptions, Government have approved setting up of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) strategic storage of crude oil at three locations, viz. Vizag (1.0 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur, Udipi (2.5 MMT). This project is likely to be completed by the end of 11th Five Year Plan. The Government is planning to further enhance its strategic reserve capacity to 15 MMT in the next phase which will meet our corresponding requirements.